

27. The system as claimed in claim 26, the specimen-handling tool further comprising a rearward arcuate portion, a forward arcuate portion, and an intermediate arcuate portion disposed between the rearward arcuate portion and the forward arcuate portion, the arcuate portions being configured so that the area disposed between the pair of arms is approximately hour-glass in shape.

28. The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, the carrier being formed from polycarbonate.

29. The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, at least one of the wells having a frustoconical configuration.

30. The system as claimed in claim 18, the separator comprising at least one perforation.

31. The system as claimed in claim 18, the means for separating comprising a plurality of perforations.

32. The system as claimed in claim 18, the means for separating comprising a depression.

33. The system as claimed in claim 18, the means for separating comprising an indentation.

34. A carrier comprising:
 a first well;
 a second well;
 a separator that permits the first well to be separated from the second well; and
 a cavity adapted to retain a specimen-handling tool.

35. The carrier as claimed in claim 34, the specimen-handling tool being disposed about at least a portion of the first well.

5 36. The carrier as claimed in claim 35, the specimen-handling tool being disposed about at least a portion of the second well.

37. The carrier as claimed in claim 34, the specimen-handling tool being disposed about at least a portion of the second well.

10 38. The carrier as claimed in claim 34 further comprising a plug disposed in the well.

15 39. The carrier as claimed in claim 34 further comprising an overlying member positioned adjacent to the carrier so that the overlying member is disposed over at least a portion of the well.

40. The carrier as claimed in claim 34, the overlying member being disposed over at least a portion of the cavity.

20 41. The carrier as claimed in claim 34 further comprising indicia disposed on the carrier.

42. The carrier as claimed in claim 34, the carrier being substantially rectangular in shape.

25 43. The carrier as claimed in claim 34, the well having a frustoconical configuration.

30 44. The system as claimed in claim 34, the separator comprising at least one perforation.

45. The system as claimed in claim 34, the separator comprising a plurality of perforations.

46. The system as claimed in claim 34, the separator comprising a depression.

47. The system as claimed in claim 34, the separator comprising an indentation.

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